

DE RUENHO 1069 2051034
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH
 P 151000Z SEP 79 ZDK CTG 10031
 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 TO RUENHO/ICSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1367
 INFO RUFLG/AMCONSUL LENINGRAD 7035
 RUOTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2859
 RUFXPE/AMEMBASSY PARIS 7867
 RUSSGD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1076
 RUSLX/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0601
 RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1556
 RUFRHA/USMISSION USNATO 7302
 RUUMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 2032 ✓
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CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 21969

E.O. 12808: XDS 13 SEPT 1985 (COON, F.) OR-
 TAGS: PEPR, AF, UR
 SUBJECT: (U) TARAKI VISIT TO MOSCOW

REFS: (A) FEIS WASHDC 122303Z SEP 79, (B) MOSCOW 14964

1. (C) JUDGING FROM TARAKI'S HIGHLY VISIBLE BUT FAIRLY SPARSELY REPORTED SEPTEMBER 9-11 STOPOVER IN MOSCOW, THE AFGHAN LEADER OBTAINED AN AUTHORITATIVE REAFFIRMATION OF THE SOVIET COMMITMENT TO AID "THE AFGHAN PEOPLE". THERE ARE INDICATORS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISAGREEMENT ON BILATERAL MATTERS.

2. (C) THE ONLY ANNOUNCED MEETING WAS ONE WITH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO ON SEPTEMBER 10. THE "TASS" REPORT ON THAT MEETING:

— REFERRED TO THE SOVIET-AFGHAN FRIENDSHIP TREATY (BUT NOT SPECIFICALLY TO ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS) IN CITING THE COMMITMENT OF BOTH SIDES TO DEVELOP BILATERAL RELATIONS IN ALL AREAS;

— SAID THAT BREZHNEV ASSURED TARAKI THAT IN THEIR STRUGGLE WITH IMPERIALIST AND REACTIONARY FORCES, THE FRIENDLY AFGHAN PEOPLE CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT ON THE COMPREHENSIVE AND UNSELFISH ASSISTANCE OF THE SOVIET UNION;

— SAID THAT THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN A CORDIAL, COMRADELY ATMOSPHERE;

— SAID THAT THERE WAS "COMPLETE UNANIMITY OF VIEWS" DURING THE DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS (BUT DID NOT USE THIS FORMULATION WITH RESPECT TO THE DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS).

3. (C) THE "TASS" REPORT ON TARAKI'S SEPTEMBER 11 DEPARTURE STATEMENT ADDS TO THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS SOME DISAGREEMENT. TARAKI SAID THAT HIS MEETING WITH BREZHNEV WAS "HIGHLY USEFUL" AND THAT THEY DISCUSSED MATTERS OF INTEREST "IN A FRANK, FRATERNAL ATMOSPHERE".

4. (C) COMMENT: AS IN BREZHNEV'S JUNE 11 STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN (REF 2), THE SOVIET COMMITMENT OF ASSISTANCE WAS VAGUE AND WAS DIRECTED TO THE "AFGHAN PEOPLE" RATHER THAN TO THE DRA. THE FULL PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE ON SOVIET TV AND IN THE CENTRAL PRESS OF TARAKI AND BREZHNEV IN AMICABLE DISCUSSION MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED, HOWEVER, TO DEMONSTRATE AT A MINIMUM THAT TARAKI HIMSELF STILL ENJOYS TOP-LEVEL SOVIET SUPPORT.

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